

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONDUCTING CONFERENCE CALLS USING A
CONFERENCING SYSTEM ADAPTED TO OPERATE BETWEEN A CIRCUIT-
SWITCHED NETWORK AND A PACKET-SWITCHED NETWORK**

ABSTRACT

5 Methods and apparatus for conducting conference calls using a conferencing system adapted to operate between a circuit-switched network and a packet-switched network. The methods can include at least receiving on a VRU a plurality of requests for conferencing services from a plurality of callers, at least some of the requests arriving via the circuit-switched network. A given conference call involving at least two of the callers is assigned to a given mixer coupled
10 to communicate with the VRU via the packet-switched network. Respective voice streams originating from respective ones of the plurality of callers are mixed. A mixed conference stream is routed from the mixer to the VRU via the packet-switched network, and the mixed conference stream is routed to callers in the given conference call from the VRU via the circuit-switched network. The systems can include a voice response unit adapted to interact via the
15 circuit-switched network with a plurality of callers, the voice response unit further adapted to support at least one conferencing application and at least one non-conferencing application. A mixer is coupled in communication with the voice response unit via the packet-switched network, with the mixer adapted to support at least one conference call between two or more callers communicating with one another via the mixer and the VRU. A data store is adapted to
20 store data representing at least one state parameter relating to at least one conference call supported by the mixer, and the data store is coupled to communicate at least with the VRU and the mixer.